



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Emmanuel Davaillon
Serial Number : 10/637,846
Filed: : 08/07/2003
For : Article Grouping Mechanism
Attorney's Docket : D-7869
Art Unit : 3682

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56, the references listed on the attached forms PTO-1449 are being brought to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified application. Copies of the cited references are enclosed.

One of the three non-English-language references shown in the forms PTO-1449, i.e., DE 44,39,728, was cited in the International Search Report in PCT Application No. US02/03884, filed February 9, 2002, which corresponds to the present application. A copy of the search report (in English) is also enclosed. The search report indicates that DE 44,39,728 was cited under category "X" and that Column 2, Lines 14-42; Column 3, Lines 2-39; Column 4, Lines 5-68, Column 5, Lines 38-59; and Figure 1 were thought to be relevant to claims 1-13 as originally filed in the PCT application.

The following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each of the other two non-English-language references:

JP 57189913 discloses a transport apparatus. In a main moving path 13, a transporting mover 1

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pushed forward by a pusher 24 of a main driving chain 21 moves forward about at double the speed of a pusher 33 of a relaying driving chain 28 in a section 27. The interval between front and rear adjoining transporting movers 1, that is, the interval between transported articles 25, is enlarged about two times at maximum. When course changing means 26 is changed, the lead portion of a specified transporting mover 1 is advanced into a branch path 14 by the pushing action of the pusher 35 and a double space is produced between the mover and the following transported article 25. By utilizing such a space, the transported article can be pushed manually to advance into the branch path 14 safely.

RU 583052 discloses a diverting apparatus for conveyor 8. The diverting apparatus includes a pair of curved guide panels 1 and 2 and a control rod 5 moved along its longitudinal axis to control the orientation of the guide panels 1 and 2.

This information is being submitted within three months of the filing date of the above application or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the information cited in this statement be considered according to 37 CFR § 1.97(b). However, if this information is submitted after the three months and a first Office Action has been mailed on or before the date shown on the Certificate of Mailing included in this statement, please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2512 in the amount of \$180 to cover the fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) and consider the information according to 37 CFR § 1.97(c).

Respectfully submitted,



Tsugihiko Suzuki, Reg. No. 36,321

Date: December 9, 2003

Serial No.: 10/637,846

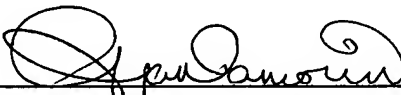
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 9, 2003.


Amanda Morin, Legal Secretary

Date: December 9, 2003

FORM PTO-1449
(Rev. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO. D-7869

SERIAL NO. 10/637846

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)APPLICANT **Emmanu I Davallon**

FILING DATE 08/07/2003

GROUP **3682****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	3253694	05/1966	Kinney			
	AB	3294215	12/1966	Walter			
	AC	3339700	09/1967	Wells			
	AD	3540971	11/1970	Johanski, Jr.			
	AE	3767026	10/1973	Pagdin, et Al.			
	AF	3987889	11/1970	Godoy			
	AG	4408335	10/1983	D'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et Al.			
	AH	4158624	06/1979	Ford et Al.			
	AI	5704195 A	01/1998	Benz			
	AJ	5718323 A	02/1998	Flix			
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	4439728 A1	05/1996	DE				X
	AM	0708028 A1	04/1996	EP				
	AN	0126553 A2	11/1984	EP				
	AO	0450915 A1	10/1991	EP				
	AP	1397017	11/1975	GB				

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449
(Rev. 7-80)

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	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	AL	57188913	11/1982	JP				X
	AM	583052	11/1977	RU				X
	AN	99/14122 A1	03/1999	WO				
	AO	974995	11/1964	GB				
	AP							

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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